

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, and 16 have been amended. Claims 8, 14, and 23 have been cancelled. New claims 25-27 have been added to the application. The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. Reconsideration and re-examination is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth herein.

1. The Examiner indicated in the detailed action that she had received a corrected drawing of Figure 1 on December 15, 2003. However, a corrected drawing sheet showing Figures 6-8 was also submitted on that date. In a telephone conversation between Examiner Phuongchi Nguyen and Jennifer Mae Slonaker on August 20, 2004, the Examiner acknowledged that a corrected drawing sheet showing Figures 6-8 was in fact also received on December 15, 2003. The Examiner further indicated that she would formally acknowledge receipt of the corrected drawing sheet showing Figures 6-8 in the next office communication.

2. The specification has been amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors. Approval of the amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

3. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,488,319 issued to Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,142,812 issued to Hwang.

Independent claims 1, 10, and 16 have been amended to recite that the electrical connector comprises a locking ring disposed on the first connector member and an unlocking member surrounding the first connector member, the unlocking member formed to slide adjacent to a surface of the first connector member and formed to engage the latching fingers

to release the latching fingers from the groove. The claimed invention requires the unlocking member to surround the first connector member upon which is disposed a locking ring. As discussed in column 3, lines 33-36, column 4, lines 5-9, and shown in Figure 4 of Hwang, the releasing ring 8 surrounds the jack body 9, and the tightening ring 3 is disposed on the plug body 1. Jones does not teach or suggest an unlocking member. Because the combination of Jones in view of Hwang does not teach or suggest an unlocking member surrounding the first connector member, removal of the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 14, and 23 have been cancelled for containing subject matter now contained in claims 1, 10, and 16, respectively. Claims 2-7 and 9 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 11-13 and 15 depend from independent claim 10. Claims 17-22 and 24 depend from independent claim 16. As previously discussed, the combination of Jones in view of Hwang does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1, 10, and 16. Because the combination of Jones in view of Hwang does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 1, 10, and 16, the combination of Jones in view of Hwang does not teach or suggest all of the elements of claims 2-7, 9, 11-13, 15, 17-22 and 24, respectfully. Removal of the rejection of claims 2-7, 9, 11-13, 15, 17-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) therefore is respectfully requested.

4. New claims 25-27 have been added to the application. Claim 25 depends from independent claim 1. Claim 26 depends from independent claim 10. Claim 27 depends from independent claim 16. Because claims 1, 10, and 16 are considered to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth herein, claims 25-27 are also considered to be in condition for allowance. Additionally, claims 25-27 are considered to be in condition for allowance because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claim limitations contained in claims 25-27

in combination with the limitations in their respective base claims. Examination of claims 25-27 is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge and additional fees and credit any overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Mae Slonaker", written over a horizontal line.

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